

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [000³~~5~~] with the following amended paragraph:

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[000³~~5~~] The evolution of global computer networks and supporting technologies has [have] made it possible for government officials, educational institutions, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to communicate with the local networks or personal computers of other persons or organizations. The recreational and entertainment industries are also using global computer networks to expand their potential customer bases. As a result, more individuals and companies are using the Internet, for example, to transmit and/or multicast content for a variety of personal and business reasons. For example, a recording company may broadcast a live concert over the Internet to subscribers. As another example, a television production company may multicast a televised show over the Internet to a group of subscribers.

Please replace paragraph [000⁴~~6~~] with the following amended paragraph:

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[000⁴~~6~~] As more individuals and/or organizations take advantage of global networks to multicast content to a group of subscribers, greater emphasis must be placed on designing a distribution network capable of handling periods of heavy traffic. In a conventional multicast Internet [internet] exchange, a network of routers is [are] provided to transport the multicast content from a host-server to the client members of a group. Typically, the multicast packets are transmitted to every available router within a virtual local area network (VLAN). Upon receipt of the multicast packets, the routers must determine the destination and forward the packets downstream to the next router or client end station.

Please replace paragraph [0048]³ with the following amended paragraph:

³
[0048] Thus the multicast group information, extracted by CPU 112, includes network address (e.g., destination IP addresses) for designated neighboring routers. CPU 112 derives a destination MAC address from this multicast group information. In an embodiment, the MAC address is derived by reading the first three octets (bytes) of the multicast group address (e.g., IP address). As known to one skilled in the relevant art(s), the first three bytes of any multicast address are 01:00:5c. These three bytes are used as the first three octets in the MAC address. Next, the remaining three octets are constructed from the multicast group address which has 32 bits. Only the lower 23 bits of the multicast group address are [is] used to construct the multicast MAC address.
